

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07899 131234Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
FEAE-00 OMB-01 /100 W
-----035082 131319Z /42

R 131223Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0810
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: US-EC WINE

REF: (A) STATE 157845, (B) EC BRUSSELS 7278,
(C) 76 EC A-354, (D) EC A-142

1. MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS
LOERKE (DG I), REICHARDT AND ULRICHT (DG VI), AND
TULLY (DG I) TO CONVEY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF. A.
COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID THEY COULD NOT IMPLEMENT
ANY OF THE THREE OPTIONS IN PARAGRAPH D, REF. A,
CONCERNING POSSIBLE MEASURES THE EC COULD TAKE TO
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AVOID DISRUPTION OF U.S. WINE IMPORTS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1.
FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF THE REGULATION (THE EFFECTIVE
DATE OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN PUSHED BACK ONE YEAR)
WAS FELT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE. FORMAL EXEMPTION OF U.S.
WINES FROM THE REGULATION OR ISSUANCE OF A FORMAL
DIRECTIVE ALONG THE LINES OF OPTION 3 WERE ALSO REJECTED
SINCE SUCH ACTIONS WOULD OPEN THE GATE TO PRESSURES FOR

SIMILAR EXEMPTIONS FROM DOMESTIC INTERESTS AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, COMMISSION OFFICIALS THOUGHT THAT U.S. REGULATIONS SHOULD BE AT A MORE CONCLUSIVE STAGE BEFORE THEY COULD BE ACCEPTED AS SOON TO BE "APPROXIMATELY EQUIVALENT" TO EC STANDARDS.

2. REICHARDT SAID THAT HE FELT ANY PROBLEM WITH IMPORTATION OF U.S. WINE COULD BE AVOIDED IN THE SHORT TERM BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES WAS EXEMPTED FROM EC CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (REF. D). CONSEQUENTLY, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS COULD NOT PROVE THAT U.S. WINE DOES NOT CONFORM WITH EC LABELLING STANDARDS. IF MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR PROBLEMS DID OCCUR, THE COMMISSION WOULD INTERVENE TO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT. IN ADDITION, REICHARDT SAID THAT THE WINE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WOULD BE APPRISED OF THIS PROBLEM SO AS TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF DIFFICULTIES AT THE BORDER. REICHARDT STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SITUATION COULD BE MANAGED IN THIS WAY ONLY ON A TEMPORARY BASIS; IN THE LONG RUN, A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION, HOPEFULLY ALONG THE LINES OF BILATERAL RECOGNITION OF STANDARDS, WOULD BE NEEDED. OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, HOWEVER, HE SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT HIS METHOD WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING CONFRONTATION. TMQ OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS GAVE THEIR BLESSING TO REICHARDT'S SUGGESTION (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REF. B) FOR HANDLING THE SITUATION. LOERKE OPINED THAT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGESTION WAS IN ESSENCE A VARIATION OF EXEMPTION OPTION DESCRIBED IN REF. A.

3. THE COMMISSION REITERATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON WINE ISSUES. HOWEVER, THEY FELT THESE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD NOT BE RUSHED. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WILL BE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SMOOTHING OUT DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR LABELLING REGULATION IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 1. MOREOVER, THEY FELT THAT CONSULTATIONS WOULD NOT BE USEFUL UNTIL THE UNITED STATES HAD A REASONABLY CLEAR VIEW OF THE SHAPE OF ITS OWN WINE REGULATIONS. THE COMMISSION EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE CONSULTATIONS. THEY ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE APPROXIMATE ADOPTION DATE OF THE PROPOSED WINE REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS THE APPROXIMATE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED. HINTON

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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